AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

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30.   (Previously Presented) A set top box integrated with, or communicating with, a television, the set top box comprising memory storing instructions for:

        receiving broadcasted content from a service provider via a first input;

        sending the broadcasted content to the television via a first output;

        receiving message information from a user via a second input;

        conducting two-way communications with other devices via a back channel communications path at a second output of the set top box;

        retrieving a visual representation from the memory that corresponds to a sender of a communication;

        processing a callout bubble that places text of the communication within the callout bubble; and

        processing for display the visual representation of the sender and the callout bubble comprising the text of the sender's communication,

        wherein the broadcasted content is processed for an audio channel and, when the communication has audible content, the communication is processed for another audio channel and a volume of the broadcasted content is reduced below a volume of the communication being played.

31.   (Previously Presented) A set top box according to claim 30, wherein the memory stores instructions for receiving signals from a keyboard input.

32.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

        receiving broadcasted content from a service provider via a first input;

        processing the broadcasted content by a processor for display via a first output;

        receiving message information from a user via a second input;

conducting two-way communications with other devices via a back channel communications path at an input-output port; <u>and</u>

receiving a communication at the input-output port<s>;</s>

<s>retrieving a visual representation from memory that corresponds to a sender of the communication;</s>

<s>retrieving a callout bubble from the memory when the communication comprises text;</s>

<s>placing the text within the callout bubble; and</s>

<s>processing for display the visual representation of the sender and the callout bubble comprising the text of the sender's communication</s>.

33.   (New) The method according to claim 32, further comprising retrieving a visual representation from memory that corresponds to a sender of the communication.

34.   (New) The method according to claim 32, further comprising retrieving a picture from memory that corresponds to a sender of the communication.

35.   (New) The method according to claim 32, further comprising retrieving a callout bubble from memory when the communication comprises text.

36.   (New) The method according to claim 35, further comprising placing the text within the callout bubble.

37.   (New) The method according to claim 36, further comprising processing for display the visual representation of the sender and the callout bubble comprising the text of the sender's communication